

THE *imperfect*  
CLAMOURS *not complete*  
OF THE  
Weavers and their Abettors

AGAINST THE  
East-India *K*  
COMPANY,  
EXAMIN'D.

WITH

REMARKS upon the Act for the more Effectual Employing  
the Poor, by Encouraging the Manufactures of this Kingdom, &c.

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*Non ego ventosa plebis Suffragia venor  
Impensis Cænarum, & Tritæ munere vestis.*

Hor. l. Ep. 19.

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Printed in the Year MDCCV.

THE  
OF AMOIRS

Wavers and their Abators

East-India  
COMPANY

48  
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1705

REMARKS upon the Act for the more Effectual Relieving  
the Poor, by Encouraging the Manufactures of this Kingdom, &c.



Non ego tantum  
Imperii Curam  
Hort. Ep. 19

Printed in the Year MDCCV.



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# THE PREFACE.

**T**HE following Sheets I presume might have well enough been committed to the Publick, without the Formality of a Preface, if there were not a few Introductory Matters, which I judge absolutely requisite to inform the Reader.

And first he ought to know that the following Sheets are chiefly an Extract of Matters of Fact, Collected from the Best and most Authentick Authorities and Observations the Nature of the Case is capable of.

Secondly, That they are the Result of a Mind intirely devoted to the English Nation, a Mind free from Passion, Interest or Design; a Mind that has no other Aim than purely to put things in a True Light, for the Benefit and Satisfaction of all Parties.

The Particular Motives that urg'd me to Imbark in this Controversy, I have intimated in the Title, viz. To Examine the Clamours of the Weavers,  
and

## The PREFACE.

and their Abettors against the *East-India Company*; and this I shall do, not after their Method, in *Spiteful and Injurious Reflections, False and Amusing Calculations, and in Sly and Designing Suppositions*; but as it becomes every One that will venture to Intermeddle in an Affair of this Consequence, with the utmost Candour, Sincerity and Moderation.

This being premis'd, I have only this further Caution to give the Reader, viz. That he would not take Things upon Trust or by Hear-say, but weigh 'em in the Ballance of Reason, and compare them with Strictest Rules of Foreign Trade.

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THE



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THE  
*CLAMOURS of the Weavers, &c.*

**I**N all our Accounts of Wise Men, we find that they still made it their First and Principal Aim to Promote and Encourage those things that did most conduce to the Wealth and Happiness of their of own Country.

In this Pursuit many of the Best of our *English* Masters have spent their most deep and deliberate Contemplations, and after all seem unanimously to Conclude, That the most effectual Means to make *England* Happy and Wealthy, consisted Chiefly in the Regular Promotion of our *Foreign Trade*.

An Inland Trade, 'tis granted, may be a Means to Promote the Wealth of particular Persons; and as 'tis suggested in the Preamble to the *Prohibition Act*, to Imploy the Poor, &c. but still it can never answer the Great Ends of Trade in General, in promoting the Grand Stock of the Nation.

This

This, I think is a Maxim, that even the *Weavers and their Abettors* cannot Except against, 'tis a Maxim almost as old as *England* it self, and withall stands so authentickly Confirm'd in the *Memoirs* of all Trading Countries, that I can hardly imagine that any of those that lately made such loud and dismal Out-cries against the *East-India* Company, will be so Ridiculously Spiteful, or Foolishly Designing to Quarrel with 'em upon this Account.

'Tis our Foreign Trade that in the greatest Measure has supported us under the Weight of a long and chargeable War; 'Tis that has given us the Sovereignty of the Sea, put the Ballance of *Europe* into our Hands and the Laurels upon our Heads; and 'tis that in short, with a Wise and Prudent Management, that in a little time will make the Wealth and Happiness of *England*, as large as we can wish, and her Glory as lasting as the World.

This being Premised, the Arguments that naturally follow in the present Case, are,

1<sup>st</sup>, Whether the *East-India* Company under the present Establishment, be such a Branch of our Foreign Trade as ought to be supported and encourag'd?  
 2<sup>dly</sup>, If from Plain and Direct Reasonings, and from pure Matters of Fact, it appear to be such; Whether



ther then all Prohibitions ought not to be taken off, and all other Obstructions remov'd that may any ways Imbarras or Circumvent it.

Now to prove whether the *East-India Company* under the Present Establishment, be such a Branch of Forreign Trade as ought to be Supported and Encourag'd, it will be requisite in the first place, to Examine those Objections against it, that seem to have most Weight and Solidity in 'em, and these I find ready set down to my Hand in the Preamble to the late Act, for Prohibiting the Importation of *Wrought Silks, Bengalls, Callicoes, &c.*

The words being something particular, I shall take the Liberty to set 'em down at large.

Whereas it is most evident that the Continuance of the Trade to the East Indies in the same Manner and Proportions as it hath been for two Years last past, must inevitably be to the great Detriment of this Kingdom by Exhausting the Treasure thereof, and Melting down the Coin, and taking away the Labour of the Poor, &c.

From this Preamble, 'tis natural to conclude, that the Chief Reasons that induc'd the then House of Commons to pass the *Prohibition Act*, were,

1. That the Trade to the East-Indies was Detrimental to the Kingdom, by Exhausting the Treasure and Melting down the Coin.
2. That it took away the Labour of the Poor.

Upon

Upon both which, with all Humility and Deference, I shall beg Leave to make a few short Observation and Reflections.

It must be granted that in the Management of the Trade to the *East-Indies* a considerable quantity of Bullion is absolutely necessary, it being impossible it should be carried on with Advantage and Success without it; but then, if from a fair State of the Matter, it is plainly made appear that the Returns do greatly exceed the Expence, and in Specie too; this, instead of being an Objection against it, is the strongest Argument that can be for it.

I believe it will not be Objected but that the greatest part of the Commodities imported from *India* are sent to Foreign Markets; in exchange for which there is generally Returned double, if not treble the Value in Silver, or at least in such other Merchandize that is of equal Worth to the Kingdom; and if so, I cannot conceive where the mighty Danger is in suffering some Part of our Coin to be employed in the Promoting and Managing a Trade, that we are morally certain in a very little time will not only double the Principal, but consequently add great Sums to the Capital Stock.



*Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including 'In' and 'The Capital Stock'.*



